More inclusive approach to end child labour

1743. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has agreed in principle to a proposal made by the Union Labour Ministry on adopting a more inclusive approach to end the problem of child labour;

(b) if so, whether there will be schemes for restoring child workers into the mainstream and for finanically empowering their parents;

(c) whether the plan will become functional from the next financial year;

(d) whether the Centre is writing to all concerned Ministries to formulate together a complte programme of action plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) A comprehensive proposal to eliminate child labour from the country in the 11th Plan has been submitted to the Planning Commission. It includes a convergent approach to tackle the problem of child labour alongwith a number of additional components like residential schools, etc.

(b) The Government is already implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitating the child labour withdrawn from work in 250 districts of the country. Under the NCLP Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put in Special Schools where they are provided education nurtrition, vocational training, stipend and regualr helth check-up. The objective of the Scheme is to withdraw children from work and mainstream them into the formal system of education. Government is also making efforts to economically empower the families of these children by covering them under other poverty alleviation & income generation schemes of the Government. For the 11th Plan, Government has proposed expansion of the NCLP Scheme to 600 districts and has also proposed some additional features in the Scheme, such as residential schools in big cities for migrant child labour, vocation training for adolescents, etc.

(c) This is subject to necessary approvals.

(d) and (e) Government has formed a Core Group headed by Secretary (Labour & Employment) with representatives from other concerned Central Government Ministries, viz. Ministry of Women & Child Development, Human Resource Development, Rural Development, Social Justice and Empowerment and Urban Housing & Poverty Alleviation for convergence with the Schemes of these Ministries for educational rehabilitation of child labour and the economic upliftment of their families.

Relaxation in maintaining workers, register

1744. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently allowed employers with less than 40 workers not to maintain work registers at the office premises; and